

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02957 181403Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11

INT-08 FEA-02 COA-02 OMB-01 ACDA-19 COME-00 SAM-01

IO-14 SCI-06 TRSE-00 EUR-25 DRC-01 /177 W

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R 181320Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3703

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

CINCUSNAVEUR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ECJ-2

USNMR SHAPE

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EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2; BEIRUT FOR VOA ROBERTS

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, LOS, ENGR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH PLANS FOR OIL EXPLORATION IN THE AEGEAN

REF: A) ANKARA 2851; B) ANKARA 2769; C) ANKARA 2482

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02957 181403Z

SUMMARY: TURKISH MINISTER OF ENERGY HAS PUBLICLY CONFIRMED

THAT TPAO PLANS TO BEGIN EXPLORATORY ACTIVITIES IN THE AEGEAN IN THE COMING MONTHS, AND EXPECTS TO START ACTUAL DRILLING IN THE SECOND PART OF THE YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CAHIT KAYRA, IN A STATEMENT TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ANATOLIAN NEWS AGENCY ON APRIL 16, SAID THE AREAS UNDER LICENSE TO THE TURKISH PETROLEUM CORPORATION (TPAO) ARE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF, AND THAT NEW LICENSES HAD RECENTLY BEEN ISSUED TO ENLARGE THE ORIGINAL PROSPECTING AREA (REF B).

2. KAYRA REPORTEDLY SAID THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WAS A NATURAL EXTENSION OF THE TURKISH MAINLAND, AND THEREFORE THE EXPLOITABLE RESOURCES LYING IN THIS REGION BELONG TO THE TURKISH STATE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, KAYRA SAID THE PROSPECTING WORK BY TPAO WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO STAGES. "IN THE FIRST STAGE WE WILL ESTABLISH THE SPOTS WHERE OIL LAYERS MAY EXIST BY MEANS OF PROSPECTING WORK CALLED 'SEISMIC ACTIVITIES'. THIS WORK IS DONE WITH SPECIAL SHIPS DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE. THE TPAO WILL ENGAGE IN THESE ACTIVITIES DURING THESE MONTHS. ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OBTAINED FROM THEM, WE EXPECT TO START DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN THE SECOND PART OF THE YEAR, BEGINNING IN JUNE."

3. COMMENT: KAYRA'S STATEMENT, WHILE CONTAINING NO NEW THEMES, IS THE FIRST PUBLIC CONFIRMATION BY HIGH-LEVEL GOVT OFFICIAL THAT TPAO PLANS TO BEGIN EXPLORATORY ACTIVITIES IN THE AEGEAN SOON (REF C). AS REPORTED IN REF A, HOWEVER, THE TURKS THEMSELVES DO NOT HAVE THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT THE OPERATIONS WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF A FOREIGN FIRM, A MATTER NOT MENTIONED BY KAYRA.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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